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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,431	02/01/2001	Paul Gardiner	11411/110	7031

26646 7590 02/11/2004

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EXAMINER	
KIM, JENNIFER M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1617	

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/775,431	GARDINER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennifer Kim	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 November 2003*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on November 3, 2003 have been received and entered into the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "wherein the amount of glutamine or glutamine derivative". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gardiner (U.S.Patent No. 6,136,339).

Gardiner teaches a food supplement suitable for enhancing an athlete's muscle size or strength comprising a lipoic acid or a derivative thereof and glutamine or glutamine derivative in the range from about 0.01mg to about 100mg per gram of food supplement. (abstract, column 3, lines 9-19, claims 1, 33 and 36).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gardiner (U.S.Patent No. 6,620,425B1).

Gardiner teaches a food supplement suitable for enhancing an athlete's muscle size or strength comprising a lipoic acid or a derivative thereof and glutamine or glutamine derivative in the range from about 0.01mg to about 100mg per gram of food supplement. (abstract, column 3, lines 9-25, claims).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paul et al. (U.S.Patent 5,292,538) of record in view of Riley (U.S.Patent No. 5976568) of record and further in view of Tuttle (U.S.Patent No. 6,193,973 B1).

Paul et al. discloses a nutritional composition comprising glucose polymers, lactalbumin (whey protein), amino acid ligands, potassium, alpha-ketoglutarate, lipoic acid. (claims and table columns 10-12, column 4, lines 53-66). Paul et al. teaches combinations of amino acids including glycinates, arginates can be employed in the composition. (column 5, lines 50-65).

Paul et al. does not expressly teach the exact amount of lipoic acid and the specified amino acid (i.e. glutamine) claimed herein.

Riley teaches a nutritional supplement comprising from about 0.0mg to about 750 mg of alpha lipoic acid. (claim 1, column 29).

Tuttle teaches a dietary supplement comprising amino acid such as glutamine in amount about 100 to 600mg is well known for increasing strength and lean muscle mass and promotes better assimilation of nutrients and speeds up recuperation. (column 4, lines 24-53, column 6, claim 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ from about 0.0mg to about 750mg of alpha lipoic acid and glutamine in an amount about 100 to 600mg in the nutritional supplement of Paul et al. because Paul et al. teach employment of amino acids in general and lipoic acid are routinely used in a dietary supplement and Riley and Tuttle teach the range of amounts of lipoic acid and glutamine that are safe and effectively employed in a nutritional supplement. One of ordinary skill the art would have been motivated to make such modification because they are drawn to same technical fields (constituted with same active ingredient and same nutritional formulation to promote well being in general with

well known vitamins and minerals and amino acids (i.e. glutamine), and well known dosages and formulation of nutritional formulation. Furthermore as taught by Riley, and Tuttle the amounts of lipoic acid and glutamine respectively, as claimed by the Applicants are well known to be used in nutritional supplement composition as a dietary supplement to promote muscle strength, assimilation of nutrients and for general assisting agent to promote Public health.

For these reasons the claimed subject matter is deemed to fail to patentably distinguish over the state of the art as represented by the cited references. The claims are therefore properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

None of the claims are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Paul in view of Riley, or to combine the teachings of Paul and Riley to arrived at the claimed invention because Paul is directed toward a composition, which provides for sustained energy and nutrition to support an anabolic physiological state in humans and the composition of Paul provides for lipoic acid as an anti-oxidant. This is not persuasive because the references are drawn to same technical fields (constituted with same active ingredients including lipoic acid and same nutritional formulation to promote well being in general

with well known vitamins and minerals and amino acids, and well known dosages utilized in a nutritional supplements.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Kim whose telephone number is 703-308-2232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 6:30 am to 3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan can be reached on 703-305-1877. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sreenivasan Padmanabhan
Supervisory Examiner
Art Unit 1617

Jmk
February 6, 2004

2/9/04